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calus and other early authorities connect the feast of the apostles in the catacombs with the consulate of Tuscus and Bassus who belong to the year 258 and not to the time of Nero.

At this stage archaeological research in the catacombs has recently added to our information. Investigation into the church of St. Sebastian in the catacombs has given convincing proof that it was connected at one time with the tomb of the two apostles. Why then were they separated and taken later to the Vatican and to a remote spot outside the walls? Lietzmann is surely right in answering that this must be because these sites were known as the actual places of martyrdom. He gives a most ingenious and convincing argument in support of this view. Both in the case of the ancient church of St. Peter and of that of St. Paul he is able to show that the architecture of the church implies that the tomb in each case existed first, and that the church was built round it.

In general the writer must be thanked for a new and most interesting contribution to science. Its value is increased, though the facility with which it can be used is lessened, by the number of secondary problems which he investigates. Among these may be mentioned the earliest form of the Roman liturgy and the Roman celebration of Christmas and Epiphany. Both of these subjects merit reviews of their own, which are forbidden only by considerations of space and the fact that they are, after all, secondary to the main topic of the work under consideration.

K. LAKE.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*The Economic History of Ireland in the Seventeenth Century.* By GEORGE O'BRIEN, Litt.D. (Dublin and London: Maunsell and Company. 1919. Pp. 283. 10 sh. 6 d.)

THERE are three ways to write a history of Ireland. There is the way of Froude—not to pay any attention to the facts at all; there is the way of Mr. Bagwell—to confine one's self entirely to the facts; and there is the way of a considerable school, of which Mr. O'Brien is an excellent example—to detail the facts and show how bitterly Ireland has been oppressed under English rule. The author began his labors with a study of Ireland in its most distressful period for its Catholic population, the eighteenth century. He discovered, what many before him had already found, that no such study could be complete which did not, at least, include the seventeenth century; and this volume is the result of that discovery. One may say at the outset that Mr. O'Brien has produced a valuable book. He has brought together from many sources—practically all in print—a mass of material relating to the economic condition of Ireland from 1603 to about 1700, with some figures a little beyond that date. This he has divided into four chapters: the Period of Construction, 1603-1641; the Period of Destruction, 1641-

1660; the Period of Reconstruction, 1660–1689; and the Period of Re-destruction, 1689–1700; and within two of those chapters he considers the various aspects of Irish industry, agriculture, manufacturing, fishing, mines, commerce, and finance, in much detail.

These form the bulk of his two hundred-odd pages; for the so-called periods of destruction cover scarcely more than thirty pages of the whole. Within these limits he has performed useful service. There are two possible grounds for suggesting that his work could be improved on the side of method. The one is that the material for such a definite question as, let us say, the Irish cattle, would be more effective if collected in one place; the other is that his presentation would gain by some comparative study of conditions and legislation on similar questions in England itself, and in the colonies. This, it may be urged, is beyond the scope of a volume on Ireland; but it certainly would add greatly in a study of a problem so controversial, and so bound up with other issues as is his. For economic "oppression" was not confined to Ireland in the seventeenth century, and no fair judgment of the relations between England and Ireland in that period can be based on Irish legislation alone nor on comparison, expressed or understood, between the conceptions of seventeenth-century economic legislation and those of modern times. The second is that, in the reviewer's opinion, he touches too lightly on the political situation which was in large measure responsible for all legislation, economic as well as political and social, in those fatal years. It was, perhaps, unwise; it may have been unnecessary; it certainly was disastrous to Ireland's prosperity; and perhaps to say that it was in accord with the spirit of the times, and England's well-founded fears for her own existence and her liberties, is, from an Irish point of view, to beg the whole question. But those facts remain as part of the problem; and it is not the part of scientific history, not even Irish economic history, to pay too little attention to these great realities. But it is too much to expect, no doubt, at this time, a complete, detached, and satisfactory, discussion of this great problem from either side of the controversial elements involved. If that should ever come, Mr. O'Brien's book will save its author from a considerable amount of investigation. Yet he probably will not then wholly assent to the conclusion of the present work, "that the realization of the cruel ambitions of the statesmen who succeeded the Revolution was only rendered possible by the destruction of the independence of the Irish legislature, and that the era of trade restriction and economic repression was heralded by a successful, if unconstitutional, assertion of the right of the English Parliament to legislate for Ireland".

WILBUR C. ABBOTT.